

Vancouver

No. 4 Jan.

ECOMEDIA

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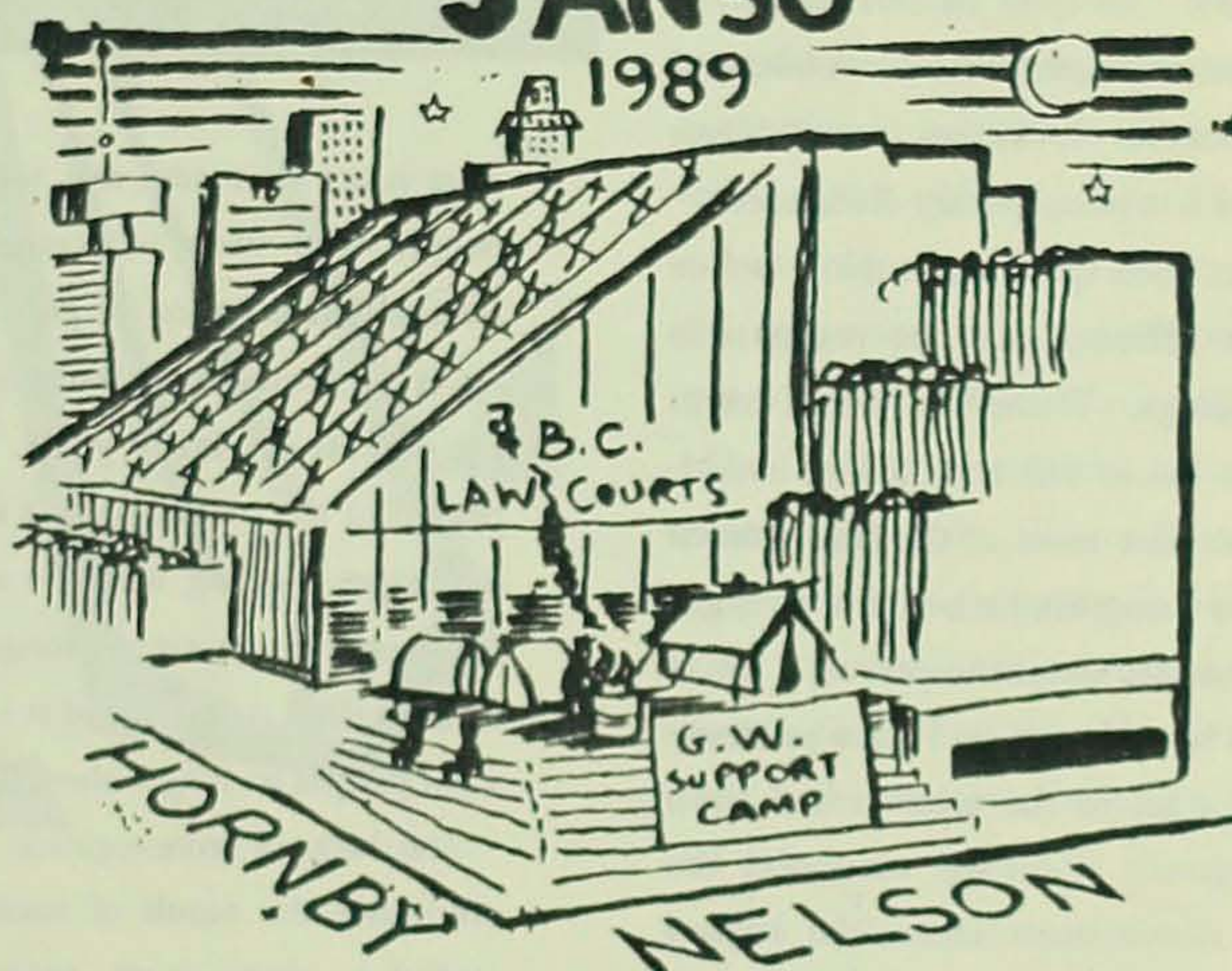
Box 6-2869, 1895 Commercial
Vancouver, BC V5N 4A6

Bulletin

URBAN CAMPING

JAN 30

1989



Protesters camp out on Law court steps

Early in the morning hours of January 30th 50-60 members of the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en peoples & supporters showed up for a rally before the Westar timber appeal was to begin at 10 am. Westar is appealing an injunction won by the Gitksan peoples which stopped Westar from building a bridge across the Babine river. The injunction was won only after a physical blockade of the road halted the logging trucks.

Westar's lawyers started the morning off with a hilarious statement likening the situation to that of Beirut where people took the law into their own hands! On the first night a protest was pitched on the front steps of the BC Supreme court, with tents and fires (in metal barrels unfortunately) in solidarity with the Babine blockade.

Almost 50 people, native and non-native participated in the camp and about 20 stayed the entire night through frigid weather. Some curious people off the street came up to the camp to find out what was happening and most all showed support. The appeal lasted 3 days but the verdict won't be known for weeks. The Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en are prepared to continue the blockade of their traditional

lands if the injunction is overturned. The reality of this court case is that these peoples, all indigenous peoples, are fighting for their survival. Our earth is being destroyed by a system marching to the tune of money and power. An increase in the fightback is well underway.

Concurrently with this appeal the Gitksan Wet'suwet'en are still slogging it out in the courts for control of their lands and consequently their lives. Unlike the Land claims, in which the native people are allowed use, occupancy and monetary payment for what was once their land, the Git-Wet have filed a Land Title action, which gives them actual control over the land (ie being able to halt destructive logging or mining operations). The Git-

san-Wet'suwet'en peoples have asked for our support in their struggle, let's not fail them it's our struggle also.

Support, both moral and financial can be sent to the Gitksan-Wetsuwet'en c/o # 201 788 Beatty st. Vancouver BC, V6B 2M1. Phone (604) 682-1990.

When asked what people could do to help out, the president of the Chiefs Tribal council replied "You could come up to the blockades if you want, or better yet take over your own government, sit in at their so called decentralisation offices and we'll come over and negotiate with you". Sounds good to us!

AMERICAS DISAPPEARED

THE GREEN RIVER MURDERS

The largest serial murder case in the history of the US. Since 1982 the Green River murders has claimed, possibly, over 100 victims. Most of them have been young black prostitutes with an average of 19. In spite of this there has been a virtual police/press blackout, and since December 1986 the Green River Task Force has been quietly disbanded.

There has been speculation that a police officer, or officers, may be responsible for the killings. There has been a lot of things that led to this conclusion, including the fact that most of the first women were killed using choke holds, a strangulation technique taught to police, a lot of the bodies were found on Police academy land, and a lot of the women had been carrying guns. Because they had the guns but never drew them, the logical conclusion is that they either knew who or what the murderer(s) was/were; if she thought she was going to be arrested she obviously wouldn't pull her gun. Many of the victims were killed after leaving a police station, the last time they were seen was at a police station, or they were waiting for a bus after being released from a police station.

When an officer of the Task force told the press he thought a cop could be responsible, he was fired. In Oct. 87 an anonymous letter was sent out on King County Investigation dept. stationery written by police officers who said "we're not going to sign our names because we don't want to lose our jobs".



This letter was sent out to the press & people who were working on the case. Basically it accused the police of a cover-up, it confessed there had been a cover up for at least the last 6 years. Nothing appeared in the press except a small story in one paper. Along with the allegations of cover-up, police are no longer adding recently killed women, and it seems they just want people to forget about it.

The lack of investigation by police is obviously the result of racist and sexist attitudes, along with social prejudices against prostitutes, but there are further allegations that many of the murders are the result of cops running drugs from Miami to Seattle using the victims to carry the drugs through the airport and killing them afterwards. One of the strongest pieces of evidence to support this is the experience of one 16 year old girl. In 1982 she and another girl were working the Seatac strip (the road between Seattle and the airport where many of the first victims had been working before they were murdered and they were approached by some men who offered to pay them to pick up a suitcase from someone that was coming in off an incoming flight. These

men then took the two out to the Green river and killed one. The 16 yr old managed to escape and hid in the bushes for 72 hours. A social worker who worked at a half-way house where this girl ended up staying at said "why don't you go to the police with this?" and she said "It was the police".

For more information or if you'd like to support the Green River Working Group write to 2215 R-Market st. # 126 San Francisco Ca. 94114, USA.

This article was fearlessly plagiarised from the Fall issue of Kick It Over (no. 22). For a copy send \$2 to KIO PO Box 5811 Stn A Toronto Ont. M5W 1P2 Canada.

ANARCHIST BOOK FAIR

An anarchist book fair is being prepared for March with stalls, videos and an Anarchist poster show in the afternoon. In the evening will be a gig with bands as a benefit for "Dawn of Liberty" a group of anarchists who plan on putting on events/gigs/benefits in the future. Contact number is 251-2267. More news next issue, we promise!

'Sinking Into Anarchy'

Revolutionary Unionism in Brazil

Le Monde Liberaire (June 16 & 23rd, 1988) reports a talk by a delegate from the Brazilian Workers Confederation (COB) to the Conference of the CNTI (National Confederation of French Workers) illustrating developments in the Brazilian labor movement and the role of the COB (affiliated to the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers Association). As an example, the delegate recounted the organisation of the "League", an association of rail-road workers. The League arose as an unofficial wildcat movement pledged to fight against the respectable class-collaborationist union bureaucracy, the employers, and state oppression, demanding full rank and file control, autonomy and self-management.

The League holds regular weekly assemblies where all questions concerning the workers are discussed and decided in meetings open to all workers. The League appealed to members to attend the union meeting where strike arrangements would be made and other problems. The membership didn't trust their misleaders and only 50 attended, but over 700 workers who disliked the officials came to support the opposition.

When their plans to dominate the meeting failed the labor fakers left, and called the police to eject everyone from the hall and arrest the "anarchists who started all the trouble". As a result the "official" union was completely discredited. At a general meeting attended by 4000 mem-



bers the labor fakers were expelled from the union and a strike committee named from the floor. For this the rank and file workers were attacked from all sides, left and right. The "Left" accused them of destabilising democracy, the "Right" of "sinking into anarchy". The "humanitarians" disappeared from the scene and the communists charged that the strikers were helping the fascists by creating chaos.

The strike led to violent confrontations with the police and army, with the official unions denouncing it as "illegal" on the radio every 15 minutes- urging workers to give up their struggle and go back to

work, promising that if they obeyed they would not be disturbed by the police. Fifty strikers were arrested, 9 accused of "anarchy" and threatened with prison sentences of 2 to 6 years.

It is interesting to follow the progress of the League. Beginning with 20 anarcho-syndicalists, it grew to 400 militants when the strike began. The League played a big part in another recent strike, & repression became more and more severe. One militant, Jose albuquerque, was murdered. The League protested, and organised a demonstration on the spot where he was assassinated.

The COB was once the most powerful union in Brazil. Through the many, many years of suppression it has now again emerged to continue the great struggle for our ideals. The COB has already been organised in seven provinces, and hopes to spread to the rest of the country. (From Libertarian Labor Review No. 6, Winter 89)

Ecomedia

Vancouver Ecomedia Bulletin is a monthly publication. Ecomedia is an international anarchist/anti-authoritarian news "wire" service, providing news and analysis not carried in mainstream press. Subscriptions are \$5 for 12 action packed issues, & a mere \$20 for sustainers. Address all correspondence to Vancouver Ecomedia Bulletin c/o Box 6 2869, 1895 Commercial, Vancouver BC, BC, V5N 4A6, Canada.

Lubicon Update

The Lubicon Nation is still involved in negotiations with the federal government. The Cree people reached a tentative agreement with the Albertan provincial government in October to settle their 50-year-old land claim struggle, but the agreement still has to be negotiated with Ottawa. Both levels of government were forced to seek a settlement after the Band took direct action in the form of blockades across roads accessing their traditional area. The RCMP broke up the blockades by force after 5 days, arresting 27 people on contempt of court charges.

The accused were all due to be tried in sequence, but Terry Laboucan, a Band member, went to trial first as a test case for the whole lot. In his trial, which started November 8, the Band argued that the Canadian courts have no jurisdiction over the Lubicon people as they have never ceded their land in treaty or in war. The judge insisted on proceeding with the trial, saying that the matter of jurisdiction would be looked into after the evidence was presented—which means, essentially, 'we'll try you first, then decide if we have a right to try you'.

Laboucan instructed his lawyer, Bob Sachs, not to participate in the trial — not to call any witnesses, not to cross examine, nor make any presentations. The trial proceeded with absolutely no defense, in order to make it clear that the Band does not recognise the authority of the courts.

Terry Laboucan was found guilty of contempt and fined \$200. "I have no intention of paying the fine," said Laboucan, "because if I do then that will be just like saying I recognise their jurisdiction and their laws".

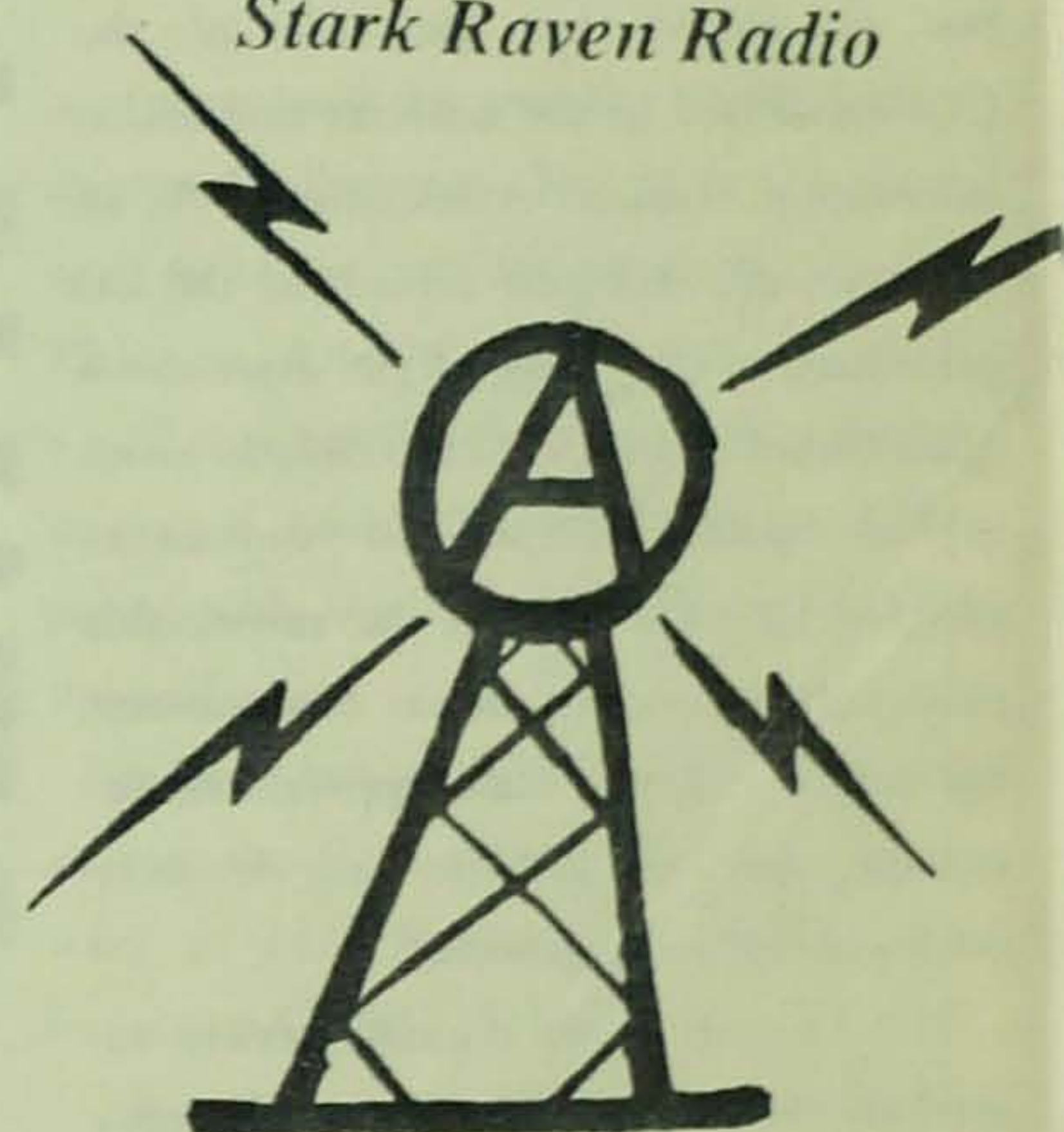
In sentencing Laboucan, Judge Ronald Berger said he would take into account that his "actions were no doubt a product of years of frustration." But he added "To allow the court order to be disobeyed would be to tread the road to anarchy...a loss of respect for the courts will quickly result in the destruction of our society."

On November 25 Chief Bernard Ominayak suspended all negotiations until charges would be dropped against the remaining 26 people. Provincial Attorney General Ken Rostad claimed he couldn't do so but showed his face when he dropped charges against four of them who were under 18. On November 28, after much pressure and a hint of more blockades, the charges were dropped and negotiations resumed. The governments have been forced into listening to the Band's demands because, as Fred Lennarson, Band advisor, mused, "we kicked their ass

politically." Years of intensive networking and clear, straightforward actions have brought the Lubicon people closer to a victory and have set an example for all those seeking to effect change.

The negotiations are reported to be going well although all parties have agreed not to talk to the media about the substance of negotiations at present. On the table are issues such as determination of Band membership & the size of the reserve. Talks were extended past their original deadline of December 15 and the parties hope to reach a basic agreement soon.

Stark Raven Radio



MONDAY 9:30 AM
ON CO-OP 102.7

A half-hour of Non-authoritarian news, analysis, and music. Topics include prison, ecology, militant actions, and much, much more good stuff. Feb 13th is the Valentines special; The Anarchist sex show. Feb. 20th; Music- Post-Valentines anti-romance. Feb. 27th; News.

